



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 440379/PALL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomas C. WELCH

Art Unit: 1724

Application No. 09/720,197

Examiner: Richard L. Chiesa

Filed: April 10, 2001

For: PLEATED FILTER AND METHOD
FOR MAKING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

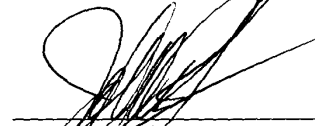
Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 12, 2003, Applicant petitions to extend the suspension of action to the maximum allowable time, or alternatively, to amend the original petition for suspension of action to request the maximum allowable time, i.e., to and including October 3, 2003. Under 37 CFR 1.103(c), the Patent Office will grant a request for suspension of action for a maximum allowable time of three months when that request is filed with an RCE (see MPEP § 709 (B)). On July 3, 2003, Applicant submitted an RCE along with a request for a two-month suspension of action and paid the appropriate fees. The suspension was granted in the Official Action mailed August 12, 2003. Applicant now petitions to extend the current two-month suspension of action by one month to achieve the maximum allowable three-month suspension of action period. Alternatively, Applicant petitions to amend his previous petition for suspension of action to request a three-month, rather than a two-month, suspension period. The extra time is necessary due to inadvertent delays in preparing a substantive response to the claim rejections.

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Because Applicant has already paid the processing fee for the suspension of action, we believe that no other fee is necessary to extend the current suspension of action to the maximum allowable time.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 15 Aug 2003

Amendment or ROA - Regular (Revised 7/29/03)